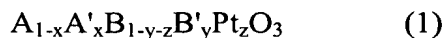

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1):



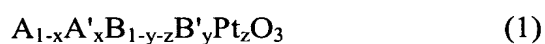
wherein A represents at least one element selected from ~~rare-earth elements which essentially include one or more~~ only rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence; A' represents at least one element selected from alkaline earth metals and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from Fe, Mn, and Al; B' represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Pt, Fe, Mn, Co and the rare-earth elements; x is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 < x \leq 0.5$; y is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 \leq y < 0.5$; and z is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: ~~$0 < 0.08 \leq z \leq 0.5$~~ $0.08 \leq z \leq 0.5$.

2. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein, in the general formula (1), A represents at least one element selected from La, Nd, and Y; A' represents at least one element selected from Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, and Ag; and B' represents at least one element selected from Rh and Ru.

3. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein y and z in the general formula (1) satisfy the following relation $0 < y+z \leq 0.5$.

4. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein x and z in the general formula (1) satisfy the condition: $x = z$, provided that x and z satisfy the following condition: $2x = z$ when A' is Ag.

5. (Currently amended) A catalyst composition comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from rare-earth elements which essentially include one or more rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence; A' represents at least one element selected from alkaline earth metals and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from Fe, Mn, and Al; B' represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Pt, Fe, Mn, Co, and the rare-earth elements; x is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 < x \leq 0.5$; y is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 \leq y < 0.5$; and z is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 < \underline{0.08} \leq z \leq 0.5$.